

S/N 09/229,229

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PATENT

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Applicant: Geoffrey M. Wahl et al.

Examiner: Anne Holleran

Serial No.: 09/229,229

Group Art Unit: 1642

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COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TREATING CELLS HAVING
DOUBLE MINUTE DNA

TECH CENTER 1600/2900



Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

In response to the Office Action mailed July 31, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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Claim 1 (Once Amended). A method of identifying a therapeutic agent[s], which decreases the presence of double minute chromosomes or extrachromosomal DNA in a cell [induce cell maturation or cell death, the method], comprising:
contacting a portion of test cells with a potential therapeutic agent to produce treated test cells wherein [said] the test cells contain a [established] known level[s] of [DM] double minute chromosomes or extrachromosomal DNA and are capable of undergoing micronucleation; and assaying [said] the treated test cells [for] to determine their level of [DM] micronucleation of double minute chromosomes or extrachromosomal DNA, [whereby reduction or elimination of DM or extrachromosomal DNA from the] wherein an increased level of micronucleation relative to that of an untreated portion of test cells indicates that the potential therapeutic agent is an actual therapeutic agent [that promotes micronucleation which results in cell maturation or cell death].

Please add the following new claims 5-11.